

August 30, 2018

Via Electronic Filing

Hon. Brendan Carr
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC

Re: Docket No. 17-79


Dear Commissioner Carr:

Sterling Heights is a large (population: 130,000+) and successful city that has seen strong economic and population growth during the past decade. But like many Michigan cities, we face difficult challenges. More than a quarter of all Sterling Heights workers are age 55 and older, including a third of manufacturing workers. That means that Sterling Heights' largest industry has a third of its workers set to retire in the next ten years.

To help Sterling Heights meet these and other challenges, we strongly encourage the FCC to accelerate deployment of new high-speed 5G mobile Internet service. As part of that, we urge the FCC at its September meeting to approve new rules that facilitate siting of "small cells," which will increasingly carry high-speed mobile data, and make this cell siting more affordable.

For Sterling Heights, there are significant, tangible benefits to having a nation-wide rule that promotes the deployment of next-generation wireless access without the concern that excessive regulation or small cell siting fees slows down the process. Sterling Heights is part of a larger, regional economy in Southeast Michigan. Businesses located in our town draw workers from surrounding communities, and vice versa. Better mobile broadband throughout the region can help us continue transitioning our economy to industries that will sustain our community. Faster mobile broadband, including 5G service, will also help attract the next generation of Americans, who place great emphasis on access to fast wireless broadband and who keep our community the vibrant place it is today. Better wireless service is also crucial to promoting new types of affordable in-home healthcare services for our retirees.

In sum, by voting at your September meeting to promote more affordable small cell siting, the Commission can help create more innovative, more dynamic, and healthier communities. Thank you.



Michael C. Taylor
Mayor, City of Sterling Heights